



OFFICIAL NEWS RELEASE

MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION
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Mississippi Forestry Commission and the USDA Forest Service Provide \$1.32 Million for Urban Forest Recovery

The Mississippi Forestry Commission is announcing that \$1,320,000 in grant funds have been awarded to 34 cities, towns, communities, universities, colleges, schools, and non-profit groups to help replace tree cover lost due to Hurricane Katrina. These grants will help accomplish four program areas of urban forest recovery:

1. Allow applicants to hire or contract with a professional arborist/urban forester to help with hazard assessments, identify trees for removal or pruning, identify green space for tree replanting, and develop an Urban Forestry Plan.
2. Allow applicants to purchase trees for tree replacement and planting new areas of tree cover.
3. Allow applicants to implement tree remediation work such as tree removals and stump grinding and tree pruning to remove broken limbs and damaged tree canopy.
4. Allow applicants to implement a community outreach program with Arbor Day and other tree give away opportunities to citizens. Also, many training opportunities are available, such as the Master Urban Forester training program.

The Mississippi Forestry Commission encourages residents to participate in local events regarding the recovery of the urban forest. See the attached list of grant awards for more information or contact the Forestry Commission at the phone number and e-mail address listed above.

The urban forestry grants are made possible through the 2006 Hurricane Supplemental grant funds provided by the USDA Forest Service. The Mississippi Forestry Commission administers the grant program in Mississippi.

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Katrina Grant Summaries

City of Bay St. Louis

Bay St. Louis received \$50,000 in Katrina Recovery Grant funds. The city wishes to rebuild with future generations in mind, not only in terms of economic growth, but also in quality of life. To accomplish that goal, Bay St. Louis plans to hire an arborist, create tree-planting projects on city corridors, encourage businesses to participate in tree-planting efforts, and work toward making the city an official Arbor Day "Tree City USA".

City of Collins

Collins was awarded \$8,000 in Katrina Recovery Grant funds. Collins will use the funds to plant and maintain native trees on five sites in the community.

Diamondhead Property Owners Association

Diamondhead was awarded \$15,000 in Katrina Recovery Grant funds. The community plans to use funding for tree planting along entrance corridors. Plantings will restore the beauty of the community and provide an attractive greeting to both the residents and visitors to Diamondhead.

Forrest County

Forrest County received \$30,000 in Katrina Recovery Grant funds. The county plans to use funding for tree planting on walking trails, four community parks, and along Evelyn Gandy Parkway. A secondary goal for the county is to provide urban forestry education through outreach with neighborhood groups and schools along with an Arbor Day ceremony.

Forest County Agricultural High School

Forest County AHS was awarded \$50,000 in Katrina Recovery Grant funds. Funding will go towards the FFA Community Revitalization Tree Planting Project, where 138 students and FFA members enhance the urban and community forests in the Brooklyn community. School campus improvement and community revitalization through tree plantings and tree give-a-ways will be the focus of the project.

City of Hattiesburg

Hattiesburg received \$50,000 in Katrina Recovery Grant Funds. Hattiesburg will use all funding for tree planting and maintenance. Park and Recreation personnel, under the guidance Hattiesburg's city arborist, will plant 500 trees in eight city parks. The trees will replace canopy cover lost due to Hurricane Katrina and beautify many areas within the city.

Hattiesburg Public School District

The Hattiesburg Public School District was awarded \$25,000 in Katrina Recovery Grant funds. The ten campuses maintained by the district sustained severe damage to tree cover. Over 175 trees were removed and an estimated 1000 hanging or broken limbs were pruned from remaining trees. The school districts goal is to re-establish tree

cover, by planting cypress, elm, and a variety of oaks and correctly prune remaining trees on the various campuses.

Hancock County

The Hancock County Board of Supervisors received \$43,440 in Katrina Recovery Grant funds. The Board of Supervisors partnered with the Pearl River Basin Development District, Mississippi Urban Forestry Council, Gulf Regional Planning Commission, Hancock Historical Society, Hancock County Chamber of Commerce, and local cemetery maintenance organizations, to improve the urban and community forests around Hancock County. Project goals are to remove/prune hazardous trees and replant with suitable trees in seven county cemeteries, McLeod Park, and the Hancock County Jail, Courthouse, and Youth Court.

Harrison County Beautification

Harrison County was awarded \$50,000 in Katrina Recovery Grant funds. They plan to use the funds, along with in-kind donations, to plant trees on ten sites throughout Harrison County. A certified arborist and trained volunteers will aid in the planting effort.

Jackson County Board of Supervisors

Jackson County received \$20,000 in Katrina Recovery Grant funds. In an effort to restore urban forests lost to Katrina, the county plans to build a 13-acre community park that will serve thousands of residents. Multiple partnerships have been made to enhance the area and maximize funding for project goals. Katrina Recovery Grant funds will be used to plant and maintain trees within the park.

Jones County Junior College

JCJC received \$38,750 in Katrina Recovery Grant funds. The college will use funding to plant trees along a multi-purpose trail creating an arboretum on campus. In another tree planting project, 1500 containerized seedlings will be grown for future plantings on campus, in the surrounding cities Ellisville and Laurel, and in the five Jones County beats. Both projects will be used to educate horticulture, forestry, and botany classes.

Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain

The Land Trust was awarded \$50,000 in Katrina Recovery Grant funds. They have partnered with multiple organizations and combined local donations to develop a five-year urban forest recovery plan. The plan spans the six counties of the Mississippi Coastal Plain. Along with other urban and community forestry projects, over 3000 trees will be planted and Arbor Day will be promoted at every school in the area.

Town of Leakesville

Leakesville was awarded \$11,500 in Katrina Recovery Grant funds. Leakesville will use funding to plant trees in welcome entrances, street right-of-ways, and town parks. Planting in Bear Creek Park will be used to educate the 4-H club, Girl Scouts, and Leakesville Elementary schoolchildren in tree identification and care. The town will also sponsor a tree-give-away to citizens encouraging tree planting on private land.

City of Laurel

Laurel received \$20,000 in Katrina Recovery Grant funds. The Laurel Parks and Recreation department will use funds to remove hazardous trees from the city's seven wards and will replant the areas with 70 trees donated by Mississippi Power.

City of Long Beach

Long Beach was awarded \$47,110 in Katrina Recovery Grant funds. In an effort to replenish trees lost, Long Beach will plant trees on 30 different sites around the community. The 30 sites have been identified as vital to restoring beauty and shade and making the city a more pleasant and healthful place to live.

City of Lucedale

Lucedale was awarded \$29,950 in Katrina Recovery Grant funds. Lucedale plans to remove/prune damaged trees and plant new trees in the city park. Multiple partnerships have been made in planning, planting, and upkeep. The local 4-H and Boys and Girls clubs will also help in planting efforts instilling the importance of natural resources to members.

City of Meridian

Meridian was awarded \$50,000 in Katrina Recovery Grant funds. Funding will be used to reforest the Lakeview municipal golf course. Large, medium, and small trees will be planted to increase canopy cover and aesthetics on Meridian's public lands.

Metro-Jackson

The Metro-Jackson area received \$50,000 in Katrina Recovery Grant funds. In partnership with the Mississippi Urban Forest Council, the metro area plans to assess its urban forest, plant trees in eight locations (two in Jackson and six in the surrounding cities) and use tree plantings to educate the public on the benefits of trees.

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College was awarded \$35,500 in Katrina Recovery Grant funds. The college lost approximately 200 trees on the Perkinston campus due to Hurricane Katrina. Funds will be used to replant the campus and create a positive sense of place for students, professors, and staff.

Mississippi Municipal League

The MML was awarded \$50,000 in Katrina Recovery Grant funds. In partnership with the Mississippi Urban Forest Council, the MML will use funds to highlight urban forestry recovery in Mississippi cities in a special edition magazine. The magazine will showcase successful recovery efforts related to urban and community forestry and serve as educational material to Mississippi citizens.

Mississippi State Hospital

The Mississippi State Hospital received \$5,000 in Katrina Recovery Grant funds. The hospital will use funds to aid in various projects including tree planting on hospital

grounds, seedling production for the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and participation in the Master Urban Forester Training workshop.

Mississippi State University Extension Service

The MSU Extension Service was awarded \$97,857 in Katrina Recovery Grant funds. Plans are to use funding for several projects designed to help individuals and communities restore, protect, and manage their urban trees. Projects include planting trees on public lands in the three coastal counties, hosting tree plantings focused on creating more hurricane resistant communities, tree give-a-ways to the public, speaking at Master Urban Forester workshops, and hiring a certified arborist to aid cities and the public on urban on community forestry issues.

Mississippi Urban Forest Council

The MUFC was awarded \$153,000 in Katrina Recovery Grant funds. The funds will be used to educate citizens to build long-term local urban and community forestry programs. Education goals will be accomplished through Master Urban Forester Training workshops. Five hundred citizens will be trained with each required to complete 25 volunteer hours of urban forestry work in their communities. In addition to education, tree plantings and tree give-a-ways will be included in workshops.

City of Ocean Springs

Ocean Springs received \$50,000 in Katrina Recovery Grant funds. Funding will be used to hire a full-time arborist. The arborist duties will include assessing hazardous trees, protecting the urban forest, conducting tree plantings, and aiding in the city's urban and community forestry projects.

City of Pascagoula

Pascagoula was awarded \$20,000 in Katrina Recovery Grant funds. As Mississippi's largest industrial city, Pascagoula plans to soften the landscape by planting trees along Highway 90. The new trees will replace lost canopy cover and help make Pascagoula the state's cleanest industrial city.

City of Pearl

Pearl was awarded \$50,000 in Katrina Recovery Grant funds. Several urban and community forestry projects are planned. The projects include assessing the urban forest and removing/pruning damaged and hazardous trees. To educate local citizen, an Arbor Day tree planting ceremony was organized. Newspaper articles, television ads, presentations, and a training session are also part of educational plans. Pearl will increase canopy cover in the city by planting 100 trees and giving away 2000 seedlings to the public.

City of Petal

Petal received \$17,500 in Katrina Recovery Grant funds. The city's goal is to preserve and enhance its existing tree cover and urban forest. To meet the goals, Petal will plant Live Oak, Southern Magnolia, and Ginkgo trees in the city park, using in house resources whenever possible to maximize funding.

Poplar Springs Elementary School PTA

Poplar Springs Elementary was awarded \$20,000 in Katrina Recovery Grant funds. Funding will be used to remove and replace hazard trees located around the school's nature trail. The nature trail serves as an educational park and meeting place for the school, cub scouts, boy scouts, and church youth groups.

City of Raymond

Raymond received \$38,000 in Katrina Recovery Grant funds. In partnership with the Mississippi Urban Forest Council, Raymond plans to assess its urban forest, plant trees in three locations (including Hinds Community College) and use tree plantings to educate the public on the benefits of trees.

Town of Sumrall

Sumrall received \$10,000 in Katrina Recovery Grant funds. Sumrall plans to plant trees in the park located on Rocky Branch Road. Remaining funds will be used to remove hazard trees on public property.

Town of Terry

Terry was awarded \$15,500 in Katrina Recovery Grant funds. The funds will go towards urban forestry assessment, tree pruning/removal, and tree plantings. Terry also plans an educational seminar to raise urban and community forestry awareness in the community.

University of Southern Mississippi

The University of Southern Mississippi received \$29,000 in Katrina Recovery Grant funds. Many of the large oak and pine trees, on campus, were lost or damaged due to the hurricane. To improve tree cover, funds will be used to remove/prune hazardous trees and plant oaks, cypress, and magnolia trees on the front of campus and at the intersection of Hardy Street and 31st Avenue. Future plans for the area include building a walking path with an arboretum setting.

City of Waveland

Waveland received \$50,000 in Katrina Recovery Grant funds. The city wishes to rebuild with future generations in mind, not only in terms of economic growth, but also in quality of life. To accomplish that goal, Waveland plans to hire an arborist, create tree-planting projects on city corridors, encourage businesses to participate in tree-planting efforts, and work toward making the city an official Arbor Day "Tree City USA".

City of Wiggins

Wiggins was awarded \$40,000 in Katrina Recovery Grant funds. Funding will be used for three primary projects. The city plans to remove hazardous trees left by Hurricane Katrina, plant trees in public areas, and educate city leaders and local citizens on urban forestry issues.